

Rivers Asks Resumption Of Bombing in North

By the Associated Press

Chairman L. Mendel Rivers of the House Armed Services Committee said today a decision must be reached soon on ending the pause in bombing North Viet Nam targets. Two key Republican congressmen agreed.

"I don't see any reason to continue to keep giving them this respite," said Rivers, a South Carolina Democrat, in an interview as the 89th Congress reconvened here. "They're not entitled to this holiday."

U.S. planes have not bombed North Viet Nam since before a 30-hour Christmas truce as part of President Johnson's efforts to convince Hanoi of U.S. sincerity in seeking a negotiated settlement of the Vietnamese war.



MENDEL RIVERS

Targets Suggested

Although he emphasized he supported the President's peace efforts, Rivers said, "The American people want to win this thing or get out."

He added: "I feel that a few well-placed bombs on military targets in North Viet Nam that have been heretofore spared—undeserved sanctuaries in Hanoi, Haiphong and other places—would make North Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh reach an early decision. The American people feel he has been given enough time."

His views on resuming bombing of North Viet Nam, similar to those expressed Saturday by the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Richard B. Russell of Georgia, were echoed in separate interviews by Rep. Leslie C. Arends of Illinois, assistant house GOP leader, and Sen. Bourke B. Hickenlooper of Iowa, senior GOP member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Reds Collecting Forces

"There's a limit to how long we can keep this up," said Arends, a senior member of Rivers' committee. "Some decision is going to have to be made unless we can see some tangible results—some willingness on their (the Communists') part to talk these things over."

Said Hickenlooper: "I don't see that the suspension has accomplished anything. The only result has been that the other side has been able to collect their forces. When the pressure is on they're being hurt. I think it is a mistake to stop the pressure."

Two Democratic senators disagreed.

Alaska's Ernest Gruening, a leading critic of the Johnson administration's policies in Viet Nam, said, "I think the pause should continue."

"I don't think there were any results from the bombing. This has been at least as successful if not more so. We're killing fewer people. That's an improvement," he added.

Sen. Frank Church of Idaho, a Foreign Relations Committee member, agreed with Gruening. "We have to wait and see what will happen," he said.

William T. Raborn, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and other high-level intelligence officials will brief senior members of the Senate Armed Services and Appropriations Committees at a closed session today.

Arends, Gruening and Church said they felt the report on Viet Nam issued Friday night by five senators headed by Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield

was a frank appraisal of the situation.

Mansfield and his colleagues said that despite U.S. efforts the military situation in South Viet Nam was about the same as a year ago and that the present alternative was between an expanded land war that might engulf all Southeast Asia and a just peace settlement which would be difficult to attain.

'Surprised at Unanimity'

But Sen. Jack Miller, R-Iowa, an Armed Services Committee member, told an interviewer he was "surprised there was such unanimity in the report," drawn up by three Democrats, Mansfield, Edmund S. Muskie of Maine and Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii, and two Republicans George D. Aiken of Vermont and J. Caleb Boggs of Delaware.

"It struck me as unduly depressing," Miller said. "Granted that the situation is a tough one, maybe it was intended to be depressing to lay the foundation for some hard decisions by the President."